

## Informational Release

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

### Mid-Pacific Region Sacramento, CA

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This informational release serves as the official notice required under the terms of various CVP water contracts. The forecast reflects hydrologic conditions as they existed as of February 1, 2010, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) February Water Year 2010 Runoff Forecast, and supplemented with additional information collected through the month.

Based on a conservative runoff forecast, Reclamation expects to deliver a minimum of 4.7 million acre-feet (MAF) of water to CVP contractors, representing 79 percent of average deliveries over the last 5 years. Should precipitation continue so that a median forecast is realized, Reclamation expects to deliver 5.7 MAF, representing 96 percent of deliveries over the last 5 years.

Settlement contractors with claims to senior water rights along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers will be allocated 100 percent of their contract quantities this year (delivery of approximately 2.4 MAF). Wildlife refuges north and south of the Delta will be allocated 100 percent of their "Level 2" water (about 400,000 acre-feet delivered), most of which will likely be delivered after the irrigation season. Municipal and industrial water contractors will receive an allocation of 55 percent (about 275,000 acre-feet). However, Reclamation may deliver CVP water to all municipal and industrial contractors at not less than a public health and safety level if CVP water is available, not to exceed 75 percent of contract total. Under the conservative forecast, and taking into consideration below average carryover storage and CVP operational constraints imposed by water quality and endangered species requirements, agricultural water service contractors north and south of the Delta will be allocated 5 percent (about 120,000 acre-feet) of their contract quantities.

As shown in the following table summarizing the forecasted allocation estimates by water user category, water allocation significantly improves under the median forecast. Under this scenario, allocations to the agricultural water service contractors north and south of the Delta would improve to 100 percent and 30 percent, respectively. Also, deliveries to municipal and industrial water supply contractors would increase to 100 percent and 75 percent, respectively.

Mid Pacific Region Water Year 2010 Water Supply Announcement February 2010									
	Water Year Type and Percentage of Average Runoff	North of Delta (percentages of contracted water supply)				South of Delta (percentages of contracted water supply)			
		AG	M&I	R*	WR**	AG	M&I	R*	WR**
Conservative Forecast (90%)	Critically Dry 60% of Average	5	55	100	100	5	55	100	100
Median Forecast (50%)	Below Normal 78% of Average	100	100	100	100	30	75	100	100
5-Yr Average Allocation		76	90	100	100	57	82	100	100

AG = Agriculture M&I = Municipal and industrial R = Refuges WR = Water Rights

\*The allocation shown in the table for wildlife refuges applies to Level 2 water supplies only. A full water supply (including both Level 2 and incremental Level 4 water) to the wildlife refuges would be about 555,500 acre-feet. Level 2 is 422,251 acre feet which accounts for approximately three-fourths of a full refuge supply.

\*\* The allocation for water rights contractors is based upon pre-CVP held water rights, and wildlife refuges contractors are based upon pre-established Shasta inflow criteria.

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The Friant Division deliveries for 2010 are projected to be 800,000 acre-feet or 72 percent of 1,116,800 acre-feet, which is the 5-year average allocation. Under the conservative runoff forecast, the water supply for the Friant Division contractors will be 100 percent of Class 1 water and 0 percent of Class 2 water. As of February 24, 2010, precipitation in the San Joaquin River Basin as measured at Huntington Lake was 26.55 inches for the water year compared to 25.86 inches this time last year; this equates to 93 percent of the 30-year average. In both the conservative and median forecasts, the water supply available for the Eastside Division Contractors (Stanislaus River) is projected to be 100 percent (155,000 acre-feet).

Updated information will be provided throughout the precipitation season. Changes to hydrology, opportunities to exercise operational flexibility of the CVP, and opportunities to utilize the Joint Point of Diversion at the State Water Project are all factors and conditions that will have an influence on water supply as the year progresses. Reclamation and Federal, State, and other agencies remain committed to working closely to resolve both short-term and long-term water reliability and operational flexibility issues. Water supply updates will be made monthly or more often as appropriate and posted on the Central Valley Operations website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo>. For additional information on the February Water Supply Forecast, please visit <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/pa/water>.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at <http://www.usbr.gov>.